

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-21 and 23-27 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-21 and 23-27 are rejected.

Claims 1, 3-7, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 9-14 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Objections

Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Re claim 18, lines 12 and 13: replace "product" with -products-.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-7, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri, et al. (6,377,866) in view of Shyu, et al. (5,923,792).

Claims 9-14 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri, et al. (6,377,866) in combination with Shyu, et al. (5,923,792) and in further view of Akamatsu (5,768,290).

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri, et al. (6,377,866) in combination with Shyu, et al. (5,943,551) and in further view of Caldwell, et al. (5,575,136).

Claims 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri, et al. (6,377,866) in combination with Shyu, et al. (5,943,551) and in further view of Stubblefield, et al. (6,043,101).

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri, et al. (6,377,866) in combination with Shyu, et al. (5,943,551) and Stubblefield, et al. (6,043,101) and in further view of Akamatsu (5,768,290).

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwakiri, et al. (6,377,866) in combination with Shyu, et al. (5,943,551) and Stubblefield, et al. (6,043,101) and in further view of Caldwell, et al. (5,575,136).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. All of the claims are now rejected under Section 103 using various combinations of prior art references, all of which include the newly cited reference to Shyu et al. Admittedly, Shyu et al. teaches that a document is rejected when a character therein is not recognized. But Shyu, et al. does not teach—nor do any of the other references—comparing a character that has been successfully recognized with a previously stored character to determine whether or not there is a match. Limitations to this aspect were included in the claims that the examiner rejected, but this feature is not disclosed in the prior art. Even though applicant traverses this rejection, the claims are currently amended to clarify the scope of the invention. The claims are now directed to a system that compares sequential characters that have been successfully recognized with a reference sequential character set to determine whether or not there is a substantially exact match between the two groups of characters. As a result, all of the claims as amended are allowable over the prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-21 and 23-27 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

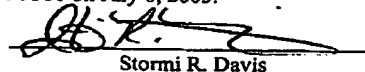
MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Alan T. McCollom
Reg. No. 28,881

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
1030 SW Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97205
503-222-3613
Customer No. 20575

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Stormi R. Davis